

Dear Parents of Children Starting School,

Congratulations on teaching your child to speak!

Easy wasn't it?

Did you know that parents are their children's first and most important teachers?

By the time children start school some of their most important learning has already been accomplished.

- They have learned to walk and talk, to interact with others, and to recognise and name family members and friends.
- They know their way around their home and other places they frequent.
- They recognise features of their neighbourhood.
- They have acquired a great deal of knowledge about their environment and the world.

All this they have learned without formal instruction.

Now that they are starting school, with your continued support, teachers will guide your children through the next stages of their learning journey.

In their years before school you encouraged your children's learning by:

- talking with them
- playing with them
- reading stories to them
- giving them time and space to grow and develop at their own pace.

Parents, as your child's first teachers, you are to be congratulated for laying these foundations for learning.

Starting school is not a time to stop doing all these wonderful things. Rather it's a time to work together with the teachers to help the learning continue by showing interest in what your children are doing and learning, forging a strong partnership between the school and home.

It is also important to foster positive attitudes to school. The attitudes children have already formed about themselves as learners and to school will have an enormous impact on how well they adjust to the school situation and to learning.

Parents are their children's first and most important teachers.



Encourage your children to ask questions:

A child's questions are a systematic search for information about language.

'What's that?' questions gain nouns.

'Why' questions usually require a 'because' or 'if' response.

They introduce the child to more complex structures of language and to the qualification of thought.



Foster positive attitudes to school!

Attitudes that will be of great benefit to your children’s learning and progress include:

Confidence—an “I can” attitude with a willingness to have a go, to try something new, and to not give up if not successful on a first attempt.

Curiosity—a willingness to investigate and explore, and to ask and answer questions.

Friendliness—kind and empathetic, aware of the effect of their actions on the feelings of others.

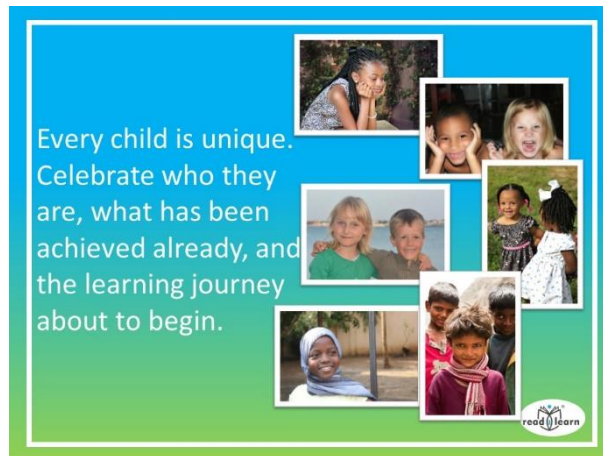
Persistence—prepared to see difficult or unpleasant tasks through to the end.

Organised—the ability to look after and recognise their name on their belongings.

Resilience—an understanding that they can choose their feelings and do not have to be influenced by hurtful words or actions of others.

Mindfulness—able to quiet their mind and be calm in the present moment.

Realise that every child is unique. Celebrate who your children are, what has been already achieved and the learning journey about to begin. Have a firm belief and expectation that your children will learn; but be patient with their learning and don’t expect it all to happen at once.



Best wishes,

Your child’s future teachers

Schooling is a great adventure, one you should all enjoy.

Read more in the [Help your child read newsletters](#) available from readilearn.